

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IOE-00  
/092 W  
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P R 110808Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1978  
INFO U.S. UN NEW YORK 1792  
U.S. MISSION GENEVA 2495

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10128

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNDP REPORT ON ITS FUTURE ROLE

REF: (A) STATE 086320 (B) BANGKOK 9913

1. WE DISCUSSED FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP AND QUESTIONS RAISED  
REF. (A) WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL WANCHAI SIRIRATTNA  
OF DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (DTEC).  
WANCHAI IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING MULTILATERAL  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. LIKE UNDP RESREP GARCIA HE WAS VERY  
OPEN AND CANDID IN HIS REMARKS.

2. WANCHAI WAS CRITICAL OF EVALUATION SYSTEMS IN WHICH  
EXPERTS SCRATCH EACH OTHERS BACKS. MANY OF HIS REMARKS  
PARALLELED GARCIA'S. HE FEELS INDEPENDENT EVALUATION IS  
NECESSARY AND URGES USE OF A SYSTEM THAT WILL DECREASE  
TENDENCY FOR CONTINUATION OF PROJECTS WHICH ARE MAKING  
ONLY A MARGINAL CONTRIBUTION.

3. WANCHAI STRONGLY SUPPORTS ROLE OF UNDP RESREP AS  
PROPER FOCUS FOR COUNTRY COORDINATION. HE CITED JACKSON  
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REPORT OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO AS EXPOUNDING THIS VIEW AND  
REGRETTED THAT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT MORE VIGOROUSLY  
PURSUED. (REFERENCE WAS NOT FAMILIAR TO REPORTING OFFICERS.)  
WANCHAI WAS CRITICAL OF ESCAP AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WHICH  
HE SAID CONFUSE COUNTRY PLANNING AND ALLOW PROJECTS TO GO  
FORWARD UNDER REGIONAL UMBRELLA WHICH REALLY HAVE VERY  
LITTLE INTEREST TO MOST OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. IN

MUCH OF DISCUSSION ON THIS AND OTHER POINTS, WANCHAI STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SPENDING AVAILABLE RESOURCES ON THOSE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND PROMISE THE HIGHEST RETURNS. WHILE NOT DIRECTLY STATED, WE WOULD THEREFORE CONCLUDE HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRAMMING SYSTEM THAT WOULD RESULT IN BETTER PERFORMANCE IN THIS AREA.

4. WANCHAI POINTED OUT THAT EVEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO UNDP ACTIVITIES, IN THAILAND'S SCASE THROUGH: (A) DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO UNDP FUND, (B) SUPPORT OF UNDP OFFICE HERE, (C) LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PROJECTS, (D) COUNTERPART SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS, AND (E) ASSESSED PROGRAM COSTS.

5. ON SUBJECT OF INCREASED RESOURCES, WANCHAI MENTIONED AND DEcried NON CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES WHICH BOTTLE UP POTENTIAL FUNDS. HE ALSO SAID REDUCTION OF UNDP OVER-HEAD COSTS WOULD INCREASE AVAILABILITIES FOR PROJECTS BUT FELT UNDP WAS ALREADY MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION. HE SAID UNDP TCDC CONCEPT (TECHINCAL COOPERATION FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THAILAND IS FINANCING ITS OWN TCDC AS ADDITIONAL TO, RATHER THAN OUT OF, UNDP FUNDING. UNDP FUNDS COULD GO FURTHER IF OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD DO THE SAME.

6. WANCHAI BELIEVES SINGLE GENERAL FUND PREFER FOR MOST RATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND EFFECTIVE USE OF FUNDS. SEE PARA 3 ABOVE.

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7. WANCHAI DOES NOT FAVOR A STANDING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. HE WISELY SUGGESTS CUTTING THE OVERTBURDENING PAPER WORK RATHER THAT CREATING A COMMITTEE TO COPE WITH IT.

8. CONSISTENT WITH HIS REMARKS UNDER PARA 3 ABOVE, WANCHAI RECOMMENDS CONTINUATION OF CURRENT COUNTRY FOCUS ALTHOUGH HE AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH NEED FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM ORIENTED APPROACH.

9. WANCHAI EXPRESSED SURPRISE, WHEN TOLD OF GARCIA'S CALL FOR BETTER UNDP RESPONSE ESPECIALLY WHERE QUICK LOW COST ACTIONS WERE CALLED FOR. HE SAID HE THOUGHT GARCIA HAD AUTHORITY TO ACT ON PROPOSALS UP TO \$40,000 WITHOUT HEAD-QUARTERS APPROVAL.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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